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### **An undescribed Taste Area in *Perameles nasuta*.**

By FREDERICK TUCKERMAN, Amherst, Mass.

With 1 figure.

POULTON, in the Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science, vol. XXIII, 1883, p. 69 et seq., gives a good description of the tongue and gustatory structures of *Perameles nasuta*. He, however, does not mention the lateral gustatory organs, and, as there is nothing in the superficial appearance of the tongue to particularly suggest their presence, it is highly probable that they were overlooked by him.

Near the base of the tongue, at the lateral line of junction of the upper and lower surface, is a fringe of large, fleshy, filiform papillae, curving upwards and inwards. Situated here, in their usual position, but effectually concealed by the fringe, are the lateral organs of taste. Each lateral organ consists of a single epithelial-lined furrow (*f*), which traverses the mucosa obliquely and opens by a narrow slitlike aperture, very similar in appearance to the orifice of a gland-duct. The furrow is 0,28 mm in depth, and has a narrow and uniform throughout. About its base are scattered mucous and serous (*s. gl.*)

breadth glands, the ducts (*gl. d.*) of the latter opening at the bottom of the furrow.

In the walls of the furrow are seven or more tiers of taste-bulbs (*t. b.*). The bulbs vary in shape, but most of them possess more or less of a neck. They average about 0,060 mm in length and 0,030 mm in breadth. The peripheral ends of the sensory cells (of which there appear to be about sixteen in a well-developed bulb) are highly refractive, and project freely through the pore into the furrow. The basal half of many of the bulbs rests entirely in the mucosa, and is frequently bent somewhat downwards.

Non-medullated nerves approach the furrow from the sides, and their terminal branches can be followed directly to the bases of the bulbs.

The organ bears a striking resemblance to the duct of a gland, and doubtless represents the papilla foliata in its simplest form.

Amherst, Mass., 11. May 1889.

